

Banbury Branch Newsletter

May 2015

Ringers come in all ages, shapes and sizes! In this issue we focus on one particular group

The Cherwell Crinklies

The group was started by John Lindsay “very much on an ad-hoc basis in May 1999 and originally met on Tuesdays with the objective of giving two people practice at ringing the treble to treble bob”. This was achieved and the original pupils rang a quarter peal. The group then continued to meet on Wednesdays as it does today. Alison Varney provided this report on its activities.

The Cherwell Crinklies are a group of ringers who are lucky enough to be able to ring during the daytime; some of us being retired, some working part-time and including the occasional guest ringer.

We aim to improve our knowledge of different methods, these being mainly surprise minor, although we have been known to tackle some of the plain minor methods and Stedman, which sometimes give us more trouble than things such as London!

Our other main aim is to improve our striking, which I’m sure the local villages where we ring would agree with. There is a regular rota of six-bell towers which we follow on a monthly basis, together with a number of towers which we visit occasionally, and we sometimes hold an eight-bell practice if we have enough ringers. One person is nominated on an informal basis to run each session. One of the other attractions of the regular Wednesday afternoon sessions is the tea and cake! We take it in turns to provide cake and the tea trolley moves around according to need. All of this is co-ordinated by Lindsey, to whom we are most grateful for all her hard work.



As you can see, I am busy training up some future Crinklies

Additional information was contributed by Diana Reeves and Alan Griffin

Footnote: Definition of Crinkly, Adjective of crinkle “with small creases or wrinkles” .!!

Adderbury

We enjoyed some good ringing over both the Christmas and Easter periods. Shortly afterwards Trevor Hubbard rang his first Quarter Peal when he turned up at a Learners Practice to find himself the only learner, so ended up ringing a QP instead. In at the deep end!

There are 32 names on the Adderbury War memorial for villagers who died in WW1. We have a programme to ring a muffled QP on, or near, the 100 year anniversary of each of their deaths. We have rung the first and the second is due for 6th May.

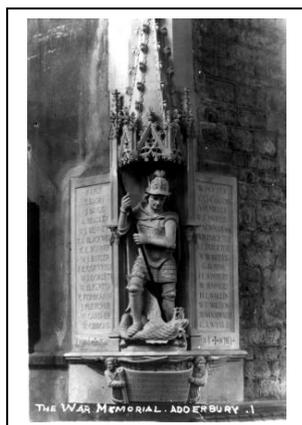
The local Cub Pack visited recently, although a bit too small to handle our bells at present maybe it will raise their interest level for future ringing. We need to recruit some younger members as father time keeps marching on!

Visitors to Adderbury often remark how dark the stairs to our ringing chamber are in places. So Gill kindly donated some proximity triggered lamps, Frank provided the rechargeable batteries and Trevor H keeps them charged and serviceable. So now we all benefit from their generosity and our stairs are brightly lit. Visitors to the Branch Practice which preceded the Branch AGM in April will surely have noticed and benefitted from them.

Barry Davis, wearing his hat as Chairman of the Adderbury History Association, gave a splendid talk and slide show on The Adderbury Bells and Ringers at a recent History Association meeting. It was attended by about forty people including four Adderbury Tower Captains, past and present, and about a dozen of the audience were Adderbury ringers at one time or another. There were some interesting slides including photos showing some current Branch ringers in a more youthful phase of their life! An excellent evening, thank you Barry.

Everyone is welcome to our Tuesday night practices, rounds to Surprise methods to suit all levels.

Trevor Trivett



Banbury

Since the last newsletter the band has become further depleted as Steven now has to work earlier on a Sunday and cannot be there for service ringing. So we are down to 7 ringers at best and are often reduced to ringing only 5.

We held our AGM in February; the churchwarden asked us to put up a table top display in church and this is now in place for a few months. We went to the branch Quiz making up the team with Sue, Heather and Dave but our combined guesses failed to find enough right answers!

A wedding in February saw the church portico and nave lit up like a Hollywood film set; but the bride was an hour and ten minutes late going into church and the ringers had left by the time she came out again – they had places to go.

Barry and Richard have installed new insulation material in the clock chutes, on the architect's advice, to forestall some health and safety issues which could arise with the clock weights.

We held an open tower day on May 2nd as part of the Old Town Party and 40 people came up for a look but no one expressed a desire to become a ringer.

However, 3 friends from Banbury Academy (Ellie, Lucy and Fifi) are learning to ring for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We hope their interest will continue beyond the basic requirements.

Jean Davis

Bloxham

We are still struggling along. We have rarely managed six on Sundays recently, and several times I have had to ring two bells to make it up to five. Our alternate practices with Tadmerton are also sparse. At the last one we only had six ringers to the practice.

In an attempt to get more learners, I am going to put notices all round the village (as usual) inviting people to come up to the Church to "have a go" at bellringing from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, which is Bloxfest. The village will be full of people coming to eat, drink and be merry, and visit the many stalls, so I live in hope of getting some more learners!

Alan Griffin

Deddington Ringers Report 2014

Special occasions and visitors

In addition to our normal ringing on Sunday morning and practice nights on Monday, we also rang for three weddings at Deddington and one wedding at Barford St Michael during the year.

There were no visiting ringers during the year although we did arrange for a visit by the local Scouts on the evening of Thursday 3rd July to see the bells and watch them being rung. Some of the older members of the group were allowed to try their hand at ringing.

We rang the bells on the morning of 23rd April at 11.00am to commemorate St George's Day. The Banbury Branch of our Guild also rang as usual on Boxing Day morning, Friday 26th December.

Membership

As part of our efforts to gain new members, a recruitment leaflet was distributed throughout the village via the Deddington News. As a result we welcome two new members.

The two younger members who joined us in 2013 are still with us and making good progress. It is pleasing to note that these two, plus one of the other new members were nominated for membership to the Ringers Guild. The nominations were accepted, making them full members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

Ringling

Attendance on the whole has been very good, on Sunday we have managed to ring all 8 bells on most occasions and practice nights have been well attended, with only one or two practices being cancelled.

We held a tower open morning on Saturday 28th June, a day that coincided with the farmers market. It was very well attended and I think we had sixty one visitors during the morning who were allowed to see the bells, see the view from the top of the tower and watch the bells being rung. It was not easy moving three groups of people at a time around the tower, but we managed it and thanks must go to all involved. The only disappointment was that we did not manage to get anybody interested in taking it further. However it was a success to get that many people to come and have a look and we will hold a similar event this coming summer.

Bells

The bells have continued to be maintained by Whites of Appleton and there have not been any mechanical problems during the year. However it must be said that they did advise us that the ropes were becoming worn in

places and consideration will be given in the coming months on having them replaced.

Finally

The year ended with ringing on New Year's Eve to see the old year out and the New Year in.

Colin Cox

Mollington

We are still here up in the north of the county and ring for most Sunday services, but practices only happen about every three weeks or so and only then with help from Barrie Salter, Helen and Harriet.

Our two latest ringers Geoff & Debbie Cotterill are very keen and are progressing well. We had been after Geoff for years, because a little bird told us he used to ring at Burton Dassett years ago with Jim Spraggett.

Unfortunately we are losing one of our most reliable ringers Ted Stear who decided to retire at the end of last year. We would all like to thank him for many years of loyal service.

However, he has come back to help us on Sundays for a few weeks because Bob Wadsworth injured his shoulder and is unable to ring at the moment.

We still get the odd visitors now and again and a couple of quarters have been rung during the last twelve months.

Just before Christmas we held our tower dinner at "The Plough" Little Bourton. This is the second year running we have been there. The food was outstanding and a really friendly atmosphere.

A branch practice was held at Mollington in February but only three other ringers turned up so ringing was limited to plain hunting and a few doubles.

We were unable to go to the quiz evening at Deddington but six of us managed to get to the branch dinner at Bodicote.

Ann is busy most weeks helping out at Wardington practices, and she and Bob will always help other towers ring for weddings or funerals.

On Monday mornings Bob R, Ted, Pete, Bob W and Debbie help with maintenance jobs needed at church, and this last winter they did some painting, but now the grass has started to grow the lawn mowers will be out again.

Some useless information! I was told when I first learned to ring, if you need more ringers you get them from the church choir. However at Mollington we are completely different. You need to have a piece of Allotment to be part of our gang!!

Diana Reeves

Steeple Aston

Like most towers we have good and poor days in terms of numbers but only one practice has been cancelled recently – too many going to be away on the same day! At least 5 bells have been rung for every service, which is, after all, what bells are for. Our newest recruit, Fred, continues to give useful service. Our local, Sri Lankan, shop keeper came up to see what we do one Sunday morning (frog marched up by Diana) and we thought for a moment we could claim multi-racial and multi religious affiliation, but after 5 minutes he politely thanked us and left. Social life continues – weekly gathering in The Red Lion for post mortem discussion. We had a tower outing to fairly local churches with good bells and loos and kitchens etc. Our church is considering getting ‘reordered’ (this is Anglican for ‘Modernised’). The PCC were invited to join us on the outing but only one came. It was certainly interesting and different. As usual we marked Holy Week, by cancelling ringing practice and held our annual dinner at the Red Lion. Somehow we managed to number 20 on that occasion. VE day was duly marked by ringing at 11am on Saturday 9th May. It was to have been a quarter peal but I gather two people went wrong at the same time.... no worries. We still had a phone call from a resident thanking all concerned for an inspirational performance.

Dorothy Clifton

Catch up time

Branch Social Evening and Quiz

Twas a cold dark night in February
When the ringers met for fun.
They kept their scarves and coats on
In the church at Deddington.

To enjoy a quiz and supper
Was everybody's aim.
40 ringers, family and friends
Eventually all came.

They took along some salads
Some puddings and some drinks.
Malcolm Hensher was in charge
Attired in fetching pink.

While Vicky in the kitchen
Served up the mince so good
And Christine Cox and Lindsey
Counted out the spuds.

Some teams had lots of players,
Some had only four.
They crowded in together
With Rolf to keep the score.

With 5 rounds and a table sheet
To stimulate the mind,
There were rows and rows of questions
Of the really "pointless" kind.

They had County towns of England,
Great buildings of the world,
Old time trades and stranger jobs
And little used proverbs.

Africa's capital cities,
General knowledge questions
Added all their brains and led
To verbal indigestion.

Jokers were played
To help increase the score.
Questions were answered
Until there were no more.

A box of chocolates waited
For the winners to be said.
Although the marks were close
Twas Steeple Aston just ahead.

Brenda was the table champ
Getting all the answers right
So Cropredy could claim a win
Much to their delight.

But there were other prizes
They hadn't finished yet.
With raffle tickets ready
They wondered what they'd get.

Twas a cold dark night in February
When all was cleared and done
They said goodbye to one and all
At the church in Deddington

Branch Dinner

The Dinner this year was held on March 14th in the Cricket Club pavilion at Bodicote and was rather beset with difficulties. There were problems with paying for the meal and the room was very cold. In spite of this Lindsey did a good job of getting together about 30 guests representing nine towers. Margaret Stear from Mollington had even chosen to celebrate her birthday with us! Thank you Lindsey.

Guild Striking Competition

The Branch has finally got round to practising for the Guild Striking Competitions, because we always seem to come last. A practice was arranged on Sunday the 3rd May while ringing for Evensong at Bodicote. The idea was to practise the test-piece a number of times.

As it happens, the announcement was made that day of the birth of a daughter to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, so we thought it would be nice to ring a quarter peal to celebrate the birth.

Our conductor, Colin Lee, had very cleverly composed a quarter peal which started off with the test-piece touch. Instead of the last single, he called a bob, and we carried on from there and rang a true 1260 of Bob Triples.

At the Striking Competition we were drawn to ring fourth out of six Branches. We started off quite well, but then there was a method mistake which took several changes to rectify, which increased our faults somewhat. As a result, sadly we were again last in the ratings.

The Judge commented that we had recovered well after the trip, and the remaining ringing was of quite a good standard.

The results were:

1 High Wycombe	46 faults,
2 North Bucks	63 faults,
3 Tilehurst	67 faults,
4 EBSB	68 faults,
5 Oxford City	77 faults,
6 Banbury	86 faults.

Ringers display in St. Mary's Banbury



Coming soon

Branch 90th Anniversary celebrations

The Banbury Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers was formed on 20th June 1925. So let's celebrate the fact that we are still an active Branch 90 years on! In the period from 20th June until 31st July we are encouraging towers and individuals to ring quarter peals, or indeed a peal. Wouldn't it be a great achievement if we could get 90 Branch Members to ring one or the other during that period?

Obviously we are very happy for members to go ahead and organise their own quarters, but we realise that in many cases this may not be possible because of a shortage of local ringers or someone able to conduct. So if you would like to take part, or have a particular method you would like to ring, but are unable to organise it on your own, please get in touch and I'll try to arrange something for you.

We will collect all the performances together and send them to the Ringing World with an article and perhaps some photos.

This is an opportunity for ringers from across the branch to join together, maybe try something new, and have some fun.

Lionel Smith (Deputy Ringing Master)

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When the branch was formed there were seven affiliated towers - Adderbury, Banbury, Cropredy, Deddington, Great Tew, Warmington and Wardington. By 1932 nine more towers had been added. Since then Warmington has passed to the Coventry Guild. Swerford has come in from and then returned to Chipping Norton. Other local towers have joined and in 2015 there are 29 towers in the Branch including 3 which are unringable.

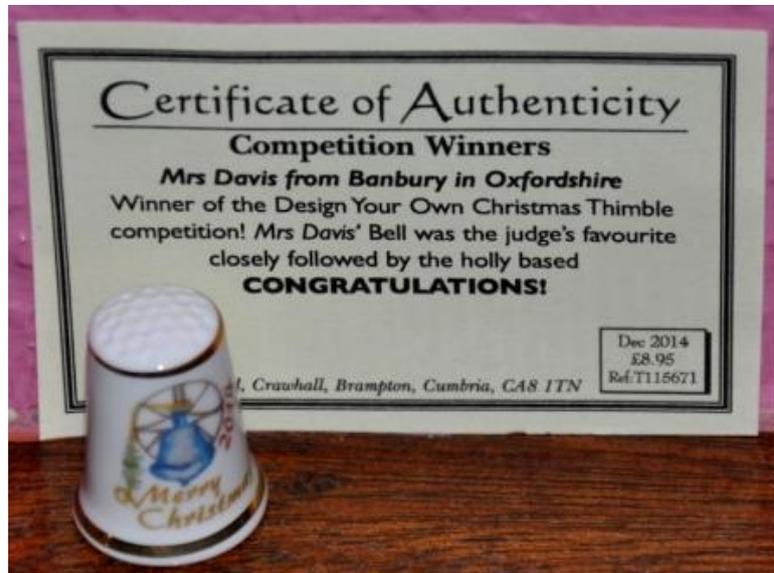
News in brief

There have been a number of quarter peals rung in the branch. In August, to mark the Centenary of the start of WW1, a half muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Bloxham and a half muffled quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles was rung at Bodicote. Cropredy and Steeple Aston also rang half muffled to mark the anniversary. In September, to wish John, Bishop of Oxford a happy retirement, quarter peals were rung at Bodicote (Plain Bob Doubles) and Hanwell (mixed Doubles). In November, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Steeple Aston, conducted by Graham Clifton, which marked the fortieth anniversary of his first peal, ringing the same bell. Congratulations go to Adderbury ringer Trevor Hubbard on ringing his first quarter peal, at Hanwell in December and to Alison Varney for her first quarter peal as conductor, rung at Bodicote in February.

Heather Bletchly

We stood in silence at the AGM to remember two local ringers who have died recently. Claude Hemmings of Bloxham and Donald Higham of Adderbury RIP

- Due to a technical hitch Steeple Aston ringers hosted the Spring Guild General Meeting at Deddington
- The first peal on the newly augmented 6 at Horley was rung on February 7th.
- We understand that the possible rehang of Hornton bells is being explored.
- Towards the end of 2014 Jean Davis submitted a design for a Christmas thimble in a competition held by the Thimble Guild. Top prize was a £30 voucher and the opportunity to have the winning design turned into a thimble and sold in the Guild's catalogue. Much to Jean's surprise her entry won. Could this be the start of the smallest mini ring ever!!



Answers to Wordplay 5

Use bellringing terms to complete these well known phrases.

At the **back** of my mind

On the **home** front

Didn't put a foot **wrong**

Pig in the **middle**

Under a cloud

As **round** as a barrel

As **heavy** as lead

Truth will **out**

Kick **over** the traces

Information Board

Points from the AGM

- All the officers were re-elected.
- Decision taken to move the Branch Dinner to September (12th) so not all social events were close together in the winter.
- A Branch practice was held before the service with no ringing after the business meeting. It was decided to continue this format.
- Towers were reminded about ringing for Magna Carta (weekend June 14th-15th) and 70th Anniversary of VJ Day (August 15th)

Dates for your diary

2015

- June 6th Striking Competition Horley.
- July 4th Outing to Vale of the White Horse area
- September 17th Tower reps meeting. Venue to be confirmed.
- September 26th Guild Training day.
- October 3rd Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition.
- October 17th Branch Half Yearly Meeting at Banbury.
- October 24th Guild Steeple Aston course.
- November 28th Guild 10 Bell Striking Competition.
- December 12th Advent Carol Service Mollington.
- December 26th Boxing Day ringing Deddington

2016

- January 1st New Year Day ringing Banbury 10.30 am.

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter either with articles or photographs. If you would like to contribute to the next edition with a puzzle, picture, wordsearch, article etc. then please send your contributions to Barry and Jean Davis at 61 Springfield Avenue, Banbury, Oxon or alternatively E-mail bjdbellringer@btinternet.com

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